FINDING 3: CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT AND DRONE ACTIVITY

Proposed False Claims Act Disclosure

Throughout the reporting period, fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and unmanned aerial systems (drones) were documented alongside the Stationary Persistent Objects (SPOs) and Recurring Mobile Objects (RMOs) described in Findings 1 and 2. These observations were recorded contemporaneously during extended observation sessions and are documented throughout the chronology.

Fixed-wing aircraft were routinely observed during both daytime and nighttime observation periods. Field entries recorded the approximate time of observation, apparent direction of travel, simultaneous aircraft counts, and notable flight characteristics using standardized real-time shorthand (e.g., circled "X2" or "X3" indicating two or three aircraft or aerial objects visible simultaneously). Single observation sessions frequently documented more than one hundred individual aerial observations over extended multi-hour periods.

The chronology documents two recurring categories of fixed-wing aircraft observations. Many fixed-wing aircraft were observed exhibiting persistent visible trails during flight. In addition, a recurring sequence of lower-altitude fixed-wing aircraft was repeatedly documented during evening observation periods. These aircraft consistently followed a similar apparent flight path across the observation area and generally did not exhibit the persistent visible trails documented for many other fixed-wing aircraft. Multiple aircraft were often observed traversing this route in succession. This finding summarizes the recurring observational pattern without assigning purpose or operational significance to these flights.

Helicopters were also documented throughout the reporting period, including repeated low-altitude operations. Unlike many of the fixed-wing aircraft documented during the investigation, helicopters were not routinely observed exhibiting persistent visible trails. Individual helicopter observations, including altitude, direction of travel, and other notable characteristics, are documented within the chronology.

Unmanned aerial systems (drones) were documented throughout the investigation, both as individual objects and in multiple-object configurations. Field logs recorded recurring lighting profiles, including static white, alternating red-and-white, green, and silver illumination, together with apparent direction of travel, relative position, and maneuver characteristics using the same standardized observation methodology applied throughout the investigation.

Several recurring operational patterns were documented within the chronology, including repeated low-altitude helicopter activity, multiple drones simultaneously occupying the same field of view, and a sustained sequence of successive drone observations during travel along Interstate 40 between North Carolina and Arizona. These observations are presented as documented within the chronology and are not interpreted further within this finding.

The field logs were designed to document the overall aerial environment rather than isolated observations. Conventional aircraft, helicopters, drones, environmental conditions, and other aerial activity were recorded using the same contemporaneous methodology to preserve the timing, sequence, and observational context of each observation session.

Individual observation periods commonly extended for approximately thirteen consecutive hours. Although observations were not conducted continuously over twenty-four-hour periods, aerial activity was documented both before and after these extended sessions throughout the reporting period. Accordingly, this finding summarizes the activity directly observed during recorded observation periods and does not characterize activity outside those documented intervals.

This finding summarizes the recurring presence of conventional aircraft and drone activity documented throughout the investigation. Detailed contemporaneous field logs, chronological records, photographs, videos, and supporting exhibits are contained within the chronology and accompanying appendices.